

American families. This amendment will make the lives of millions of American families even more challenging. Plus, if you take away legal counsel, you also complicate the resolution of disputes for businesses and others as well. You all know Legal Services is not a Washington-based bureaucratic program. To the contrary, there are legal aid attorneys and professionals in every State, with more than 800 offices. Legal Services' moneys are put to work back home across America outside of Washington.

In my Tampa Bay community, Bay Area Legal Services helps to keep the wheels of justice turning for everyone. What type of legal help? Foreclosure, consumer assistance, domestic violence. Many of the domestic violence victims are simply trying to keep their children safe and their families together. Others include veterans returning from war, families with housing issues, those that were hit hard by natural disasters and are dealing with the aftermath, and families involved in child custody disputes. I have seen these advocates in action. Many Members of Congress actually refer cases to Legal Services groups in our area. They help families navigate the justice system. They also boost the economy through avoided costs and swift resolution of disputes.

I would also like to remind my colleagues that Legal Services has already undergone significant cuts over the past few years. Funding for Legal Services was \$420 million in fiscal year 2010. It was cut—especially after sequestration in 2013—and any further cuts will do severe damage. This amendment jeopardizes access to justice and the rule of law.

This year's bill is a destructive step backwards which threatens these vital community services by slashing funding by \$75 million. This is the lowest level of funding since FY 1999. These devastating cuts will terminate over 1,000 full time staff including 430 attorney positions. Under these draconian cuts, Legal services offices across the country will be forced to close 25 offices, complete 150,000 fewer cases, and serve 350,000 fewer people.

In exacting such severe cuts, your advice to families is, "You can't get help". "You can't avoid a foreclosure". "You can't escape an abusive relationship or defend yourself against consumer scams".

We cannot allow hundreds of thousands of American veterans, elderly victims of foreclosure, and women and children desperate to escape domestic violence to be denied assistance.

So I strongly urge a "yes" vote on the Cohen amendment.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Trans-

portation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the FY16 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

In short, this bill is shortsighted and fraught with handouts to special interests at the expense of the safety of the American people.

Once again, the Majority in this body has squandered an opportunity to invest in our nation's crumbling roads and infrastructure, and it has squandered an opportunity to combat homelessness and provide access to safer, affordable housing for millions.

Our future prosperity and economic growth depend on the investments we make now to ensure America remains the most competitive nation in an increasingly global economy.

Instead of investing in safer rail to prevent accidents like the recent and fatal derailment of Amtrak in Philadelphia, this bill cuts Amtrak's budget by nearly \$290 million and subsequently hampers its ability to implement proven technologies that would have prevented this tragedy and countless others.

Instead of supporting the Federal Aviation Administration's efforts to implement NextGen technologies to keep our skies the safest in the world, this bill cuts the agency's capital investment program by \$100 million from the FY15 enacted level and \$355 million below the President's budget request.

This bill cuts funding to programs like Choice Neighborhoods and the Community Development Block Grants that would revitalize our communities, the Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes programs that would keep our families safe from harmful materials, and programs such as Housing for the Elderly that helps deliver the dignity and assistance for our most vulnerable populations.

This is just a bad bill, Mr. Chair, and these are just a few of the reasons why this is a terrible bill, and one that will surely be vetoed by the President.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and bring this legislation back to the drawing board.

HONORING MR. JOHN J. DAWDY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. John J. Dawdy for his courageous service to our country. A graduate of Mabank High School, Private First Class Dawdy served in the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (1 MEF) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On March 19, 2004, Pfc. Dawdy was driving a seven-ton truck in his unit's convoy. Shortly after leaving Camp Fallujah, Iraq, the convoy hit an improvised explosive device. With his leg torn with shrapnel, Pfc. Dawdy still managed to maintain control of his truck and maneuvered nearly one hundred yards before pulling off to the side of the road and losing consciousness. As a testament to his bravery and leadership, a fellow Marine called Pfc. Dawdy a "father figure" who made "all the

wise decisions." Pfc. Dawdy was awarded the Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained in combat while bravely serving his country.

Humbly, I echo the words of President Ronald Reagan, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we will always be free." And humbly, I offer my sincere gratitude to Pfc. John J. Dawdy for his service and acts of bravery that allow us the freedoms we enjoy today.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 10

Time to be announced

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Anne Elizabeth Wall, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of the Treasury, and Rafael J. Lopez, of California, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

TBA

9 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter V. Neffenger, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, and David S. Shapira, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2019.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term "waters of the United States".

SD-406